

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND**  
**May 15, 2008 BOARD MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BOARD MEMBERS (\*DENOTES ABSENT)**

Mario Bueno	William McGowan	Sandra Powell
Mia Caetano Johnson*	Brandon Melton	Lorna Ricci*
Armeather Gibbs*	Sharon Moylan	Cathy Streker
Saul Kaplan*	Robert Nangle	Martin Trueb*
Paul MacDonald*	George Nee*	Jack Warner
Joseph MarcAurele	Robert Paniccia*	

**GWB STAFF:** Michael Koback, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Maureen Mooney

**GUESTS:** Cheryl DaCosta, David Cedrone, Paul Harden, John O'Hare, Mary Ellen McQueeney-Lally, Jane Morgan, Robin Smith, Judy Jones, Cheryl Merchant, Dorothy Mattiello, Michael Hogan, Christine Grieco, Laura Hart, Robert Kalaskowski, Connie Parks, Johan Uvin

**LOCATION:** RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT), 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI

**Welcome and Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**4/17/08 MEETING MINUTES**

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes of 4/17/08.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** C. Streker moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve, 2008 Governor's Workforce Board April 17, 2008 meeting minutes. All approved. April 17, 2008 meeting minutes approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Chair MarcAurele reported that the Board Development committee is in the midst of planning for the annual meeting. He noted that the meeting will offer a morning long program which includes a workshop facilitated by the guest speaker. He also mentioned there will be a brief meeting of the board over lunch which will be facilitated by the speaker as well. A good turnout is expected as more than 400 invitations will be sent to various stakeholders including business and industry. Chair MarcAurele noted this is our opportunity to tell our story and to highlight the accomplishments of the board.

Chair MarcAurele mentioned that the next phase of the work on the strategic plan is progressing well. He then turned the meeting over to M. Koback for the Director's report.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Strategic Plan**

M. Koback reported that the Strategic Planning steering committee will be meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the goals, strategies and objectives relating to the strategic plan. He indicated that the focus groups are scheduled to meet from June 10 -13<sup>th</sup>. These groups will include representatives from employers, industry partners, education, and labor as well as members of

the Workforce Cabinet. The plan is to present the current objectives for their review to ensure we are moving in the right direction. M. Koback reported that John Metcalf from the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) will be facilitating the focus groups. He noted that the target date to assign the writers for the unified plan is September.

### **Workforce Development Day**

M. Koback asked Vice Chair W. McGowan to talk about the upcoming Workforce Development Day planned at the State House. W. McGowan indicated the goal is to be visible in the community to showcase some of the successful initiatives of the GWB. He noted it is particularly important to do so during the current difficult economic times. He reported that the scheduled date is June 3<sup>rd</sup> and that the goal is to include some of the employers who have benefitted from grants paid from the Job Development fund (JDF). He indicated the importance of presenting these success stories to key legislators to enlist their support. W. McGowan invited all board members and guests to attend this event.

D. Tremblay reported the event would occur in the Rotunda area. It would begin in the early afternoon and continue until the start of the legislative session. He indicated this format is a very well understood mechanism to inform the legislators on issues and initiatives important to their constituents. D. Tremblay noted this event could be expanded in the next legislative year perhaps announcing the strategic plan in this type of forum.

### **Budget**

M. Koback reported there is no change in the budget other than what is included in the consent agenda for this meeting. He noted that the funding for year 2 of the Industry Partnerships was allocated by the Strategic Investment committee and is part of the consent agenda. He indicated staff is working on FY 09 budget which will be reviewed and approved by the Strategic Investment committee at the next meeting.

### **Consent Agenda:**

M. Koback reported he would discuss items 2 and 3 of the consent agenda and that Vice Chair McGowan would discuss items 1 and 4.

### **Item 2: Industry Partnership Grants**

M. Koback reported that four of the Industry Partnership grants have requested funds for year 2 and have submitted a plan. Currently the partnerships are being assessed for the successful completion of year one objectives. All partnerships have done well with year one objectives. The consent agenda indicates a request to approve an allocation of \$600,000 for year-two grants for the 4 partnerships. He noted these contracts will be negotiated in the next month.

### **Item 3: Youth Allocation FY '09**

M. Koback reported that at the April 7, 2008 Strategic Investment Committee meeting, members approved the request by the Youth Development Committee to award \$3 million of FY 09 funds to DLT to continue the expansion and delivery of youth services by the local WBS and the department. He then asked Vice Chair McGowan to present the other WIA consent agenda items.

### **Item 1: Approve WIA Consent Agenda**

Vice Chair McGowan noted that any specific questions on the four Workforce Investment Notices contained in the consent agenda can be addressed by John O'Hare. He indicated the purpose of these notices is to comply with the Department of Labor regulations as well as to ensure that the strategic plan incorporates these items. John O'Hare presented a brief overview of the Workforce Investment Notices presented.

### **Item 4: Senior Community Service Employment Plan (SCSEP)**

J. O'Hare reported that at the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Planning & Evaluation Committee members were presented with an overview of the SCSEP state plan. He noted that the SCSEP

has been administered by the RI DEA and will transition to the DLT effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. DLT will now manage the vendors for this system which includes CCAP (Cranston Community Action Program) and SER: Jobs for Progress in Pawtucket. DLT will manage approximately \$500, 000 of that fund. As required by state statute, all of the state workforce plans must be presented to the GWB in order to ensure alignment with the strategic/unified plan.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the items on the WIA consent agenda.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. S. Powell recused herself from the vote. All other GWB board members approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve, WIA Consent Agenda. All but S. Powell approved. WIA Consent agenda items approved.

### **Committee Reports**

Chair MarcAurele asked if there were any committee reports to be presented. J. Warner indicated that the GWB Adult Education and Literacy committee would be meeting on May 22, 2008.

J. Uvin invited GWB Board members and guests to attend as Dr. John Tyler, Associate Professor of Education, Public Policy and Economics at Brown University, would be presenting research information on the role of education credentials (focusing on the GED) on low skilled workers and the RI labor market.

### **Presentation:**

M. Koback reported that last year, the GWB awarded the first \$50,000 business retention grant which is the only grant of this type ever awarded by the board. Currently the policy for awarding the grant funds is being reviewed. Hope Global was the recipient of this grant and was awarded this funding as the company was going through some difficult times. Challenged by a flood that created significant damage to the infrastructure, market conditions and increased overseas competition, Hope Global requested funding assistance to get them through this period. With this funding, Hope Global was able to do the research required to reposition itself in the marketplace. Through this effort, Hope Global has managed to not only reinvent itself in the global market but has maintained their longstanding manufacturing base in RI.

Cheryl Merchant thanked the GWB for their support with business retention funding. She acknowledged the impact this funding had on repositioning Hope Global for future growth. Ms. Merchant provided an overview of the company and noted it is the last standing textile company in New England. She noted the company's commitment to reinvent itself to compete in the global market as well as maintaining their manufacturing base in RI. She emphasized the importance of the GWB in providing assistance in retaining companies as well as supporting new companies. She introduced Dorothy Mattiello, V.P. of Human Resources, who provided further insight into Hope Global's strong internal support. She also emphasized the company's commitment in providing training to their employees to promote their development and skills.

With no further business, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** R. Nangle moved to approve, seconded by C. Streker. All approved. Motion to adjourn passes.

**VOTE** to approve adjournment of Governor's Workforce Board meeting. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen F. Mooney  
*GWBR Board Meeting*  
5/15/08